

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01740 081313Z
ACTION OES-06

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UNCLAS MADRID 1740

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, SP
SUBJECT: 1976 TREATY: SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 48310

1. SPANISH CO-CHAIRMAN HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO APRIL 21-22 FOR FIRST FORMAL SESSION OF JOINT COMMITTEE IN MADRID. HE COULD ALSO MEET WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 25, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE LESS CONVENIENT. WE HOPE TO BE IN A POSITION SOON, BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SPANISH SIDE OF THE COMMITTEE, TO PROVIDE THE DEPT WITH A DRAFT AGENDA FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. BARROSO CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT WE WILL NEED TIME TO STUDY THE SPANISH PROPOSALS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.
2. SEPTTEL WILL TREAT EMBASSY VIEWS ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES CONNECTED WITH THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS UNDER THE TREATY (PARA 3, REFTTEL).
3. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DEPT'S PREFERENCE FOR DEVELOPING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS OF 5 YEARS DURATION, EMPLOYING US AND SPANISH LEAD AGENCIES, AS WELL AS THE REQUIREMENT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT DIRECT RESEARCH GRANTS SERVE US AS WELL AS SPANISH INTERESTS. HOWEVER, THE POSITIONS OUTLINED IN PARA 2, REFTTEL, DO NOT SEEM TO TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPLICA-

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 01740 081313Z

TIONS OF THE PROCEDURE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN LAUNCHED BY THE SPANISH SIDE TO SOLICIT PUBLIC PROPOSALS FOR ALL 3 AREAS OF COOPERATION UNDER THE TREATY (INSTITUTIONAL GRANTS, DIRECT RESEARCH GRANTS, AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS). OUR SPANISH INTERLOCUTORS HAVE MADE QUITE CLEAR THAT ONLY ON AN EXCEPTIONAL BASIS WILL THEY CONSIDER PROGRAMS WHICH, ON THEIR SIDE, ARE NOT THE RESULT OF RESPONSES TO THE SOLICITATION

WHICH IS NOW BEING SENT OUT NATIONWIDE. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPANISH AGENCIES WILL ANSWER THE FIRST CALL FOR SUCH PROPOSALS (DEADLINE 31 MARCH). IT IS ALSO THE PRESENT SPANISH GOVT INTENTION THAT PROPOSALS WILL BE SOLICITED ANNUALLY, ALTHOUGH THIS IN ITSELF NEED NOT PREVENT MULTI-YEAR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. WE ARE UNDERTAKING TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE SPANISH AGENCIES WHICH WE ALREADY KNOW ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS DO NOT THROUGH INADVERTENCE MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THE PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF PROPOSALS. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT ON THE US SIDE TO COME TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING WITH SOME FLEXIBILITY AS TO HOW THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE MANAGED.

4. SIMILARLY, WE WOULD FULLY EXPECT THAT THE SPANISH GOVT WOULD OBJECT STRENUOUSLY TO CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF DIRECT RESEARCH GRANTS LIMITING THEM TO COVERING RESEARCH WHICH NEITHER DUPLICATES NOT FAILS TO MEET A SPECIFIC NEED OF A US AGENCY. THE SPANISH WILL CERTAINLY ARGUE THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE TREATY (ART III) CLEARLY ENCOMPASSES PROPOSALS WHICH ARE OF SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE. WE, FOR OUR PART, WOULD URGE THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO EXPANDING THE CRITERIA FOR WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO INCLUDE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN THE LARGER INTERESTS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, FOR EXAMPLE, PARTICULARLY WHERE IT MIGHT BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE RESEARCH MIGHT ASSIST IN SOLUTION OF THE SERIOUS BALANCE OF TRADE PROBLEM FACED BY THE SPANISH GOVT. EATON

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